

OTTAWA IN FLAMES.

Fire Ravages a District Five Miles Long.

LAID TO INCENDIARIES.

Loss Said to Be From \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

The City of Hull, Across the River, Where the Fire Started. Completely Destroyed—Flames, Fanned by a Gale, Leaped the Stream—Business Part of Ottawa in Ashes—Fire Not Checked Last Night—Twenty Thousand Persons Made Homeless—The Burning Attributed to the Band of Men Who Recently Blew Up the Welland Canal.

OTTAWA, Ont., April 26.—The greatest fire that has ever visited Ottawa and one of the most disastrous in the history of Canada occurred today. It is still raging. It began at 11 o'clock this morning in the city of Hull, on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River. Fanned by a gale from northwest, which continued all day and far into the night, the flames swept everything before them in Hull, destroyed the whole city, ran through the vast lumber yards filled with piles of pine and extended into the Ottawa Chaudiere district.

At half an hour from the outbreak the fire was beyond the control of the fire departments of Hull and Ottawa. Within an incredible short time it swept a pathway a mile long through Hull, leaped across the narrow part of the river at the Chaudiere Falls and gained a sure footing among the lumber piles on the Ottawa side. Then it cut a wide swath through the western part of Ottawa, through Rochester and into the suburbs of Hintonburg. The extent of its progress at this hour is about five miles from its beginning.

Most of the buildings which were burned at the outset were wooden, and the flames, fanned by the high wind, licked them over in a few minutes. The lumber yards, which were filled with piles of lumber, were also destroyed. Seven thousand persons are thrown out of employment and 20,000 made homeless in the two cities. About 10,000,000 worth of manufactured goods have been destroyed. Practically the whole of the city of Hull is blotted out, and had the wind been blowing from the west nothing could have saved Ottawa from complete destruction.

The fire was at first said to have originated from a defective chimney, but not an hour after it had raged for three different places in this city two miles from the river, and another suspicious circumstance was the outbreak of the fire at Gilmour's lumber mill, two miles down the river, on the Hull side, and to windward of the main fire. This was undoubtedly the work of an incendiary, and it is believed that other fires, which during the day started in unexpected places, were also due to firebugs.

As soon as the fire got beyond control on the Ottawa side the Government ordered out all the local militia to protect property from the looting which was going on, and help was also asked from the fire departments of Montreal, Brockville and Toronto, which arrived in the city by special trains during the evening. Even these combined fire brigades were unable to stop the progress of the flames, and their efforts were concentrated to keep the fire from creeping further into the city. Its course, following the wind, could not be checked until the limit of the suburbs is reached.

The Ottawa Electric Company's principal power house was burned early in the day, and the street car service was put out of business. To-night the city would be in darkness were it not for the glare of the conflagration. The Parliament buildings were at one time threatened by the burning timber which had crept up to the river, but the fire was kept back by the water.

All business in the city was suspended. There were many serious accidents happened throughout the day, but only three fatalities were reported, one being Chief Bennett of the Hull Fire Brigade, who was so seriously burned that he died to-night. It is feared, however, that the death toll will be large when the full truth is known.

Homeless women and children fill the principal streets and are being cared for by the authorities and their more fortunate neighbors. The Education buildings, Drill Hall, various charitable institutions and other establishments are thrown open to accommodate them. Many of the men are panic-stricken. Their wagons and cars, filled with household goods, are being driven hither and thither in search of shelter, and the roads are frequently jammed on the highways and there being watched by some of the militia.

The Canadian Pacific Railway station and much of the stock standing in the yards disappeared in the flames. The Iron Bridge bridge, which is the only one at present between Ottawa and Hull, is gone and travel can now be made only by ferry.

A conservative estimate of the total loss so far sustained by the city is from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000, of which the loss in lumber alone will amount to over \$10,000,000. The generally accepted theory as to the origin of the fire is that it was not at all accidental, but the result of a well devised scheme of fire sympathizers or Fenians. It is freely stated that a secret organization of this character has been suspected to be working in this city for several months, but the best efforts of the police failed to locate it. The fact that the fire followed so closely upon the Welland Canal outbreak at Thorold and the manner in which it started during the day it started up at widely different places almost simultaneously, appear to afford good grounds for the incendiary theory.

Among the many peculiar incidents attendant upon the fire and destruction was that of a Chinaman who was observed rushing along the street, carrying a large bundle of straw, and being followed by a crowd of people. He was seen to throw the straw into the fire, and it was believed that he was doing so to save his goods when they were destroyed. The fact that the fire followed so closely upon the Welland Canal outbreak at Thorold and the manner in which it started during the day it started up at widely different places almost simultaneously, appear to afford good grounds for the incendiary theory.

PURSUIT OF THE BOERS.

British Hearts Set on a Repetition of Paardeberg.

Roberts Reports the Evacuation of Israelpoort, on the Way to Taba N'Chu—British Force Posted to Cut Off the Retreat From Wepener—Re-enforcements for Methuen.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 26.—Gen. Roberts cables the War office as follows:

BOERFORST, April 26.—Hamilton yesterday drove a column of a strong position at Israelpoort by a well-conceived turning movement that was admirably carried out by Ridley, commanding the Second Mounted Infantry Brigade, and Smith-Dorrien, commanding the Eighteenth Brigade. These today are advancing toward Taba N'Chu. Our losses were slight.

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BOER ARSENAL BLOWN UP.

Ten Men Killed and Forty Injured by Explosion in Beggies Iron Works.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

From THE SUN'S Correspondent at Johannesburg.

JOHANNESBURG, April 26.—Via Lorenzo Marques, April 26.—The Beggies iron works, which were blown up yesterday afternoon, was a depot for filling ammunition cases, was destroyed this evening by a terrific explosion. Fire spread to a block of buildings adjoining and a great crowd assembled.

Many heroic deeds of rescue were performed. The casualties were 10 killed and 40 wounded.

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BEGREENED MEN MOB HIM.

Riot Over a Painter Whose Pot Was Upset in the Air.

Big Dog Began It. Bumping Against the Painter's Ladder—Green Whiskers and Green Coats Pursue the Painter, Who Fights With a Full Brush and Broad Effects.

There was a green paint riot at John Ruge's saloon at Sixty-second street and Amsterdam avenue yesterday afternoon. A St. Bernard dog, which had been hung by a man hired by Emil Wildfeuer of 84 West 125th street, began to bark at the painter, who was painting the interior of the saloon. The dog was the most active figure in the proceedings.

Fifteen or twenty men were standing around in front of the saloon. The painter was on a ladder that leaned against the edge of the saloon. The dog began to bark at the painter, who was painting the interior of the saloon. The dog was the most active figure in the proceedings.

REQUIT TO THE P. E. CATHEDRAL.

Charles P. Huntington, Who Began Life as Errand Boy, Leaves to It \$700,000.

By the will of Charles P. Huntington, who died in Yonkers a week ago, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine will receive from his estate about \$700,000, larger than it has ever received from one source. Mr. Huntington's fortune was about \$1,000,000. The will makes personal bequests amounting to \$100,000 and bequests of \$20,000 each to the six following institutions: Roosevelt Hospital, to maintain four free beds; Five Points House of Industry; Children's Aid Society; St. Vincent's Hospital; St. John's Hospital; and the Free Library of the City of New York.

The residue of the estate goes to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, which was founded by Charles A. Huntington, who was the first of the name to settle in New York. The residue of the estate goes to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, which was founded by Charles A. Huntington, who was the first of the name to settle in New York.

SULTAN SEES A WAY OUT.

HOPES TO GET SQUARE BY BUYING A CRUISER HERE

And Having the Indemnity for the Missions—Takes On the Price of It—Cramps to Give the \$100,000 to the Government—Turkish Admiral Coming to Fix the Thing

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 26.—The Sultan's Commissioned by the British Government to purchase a cruiser for the Ottoman Navy, has ordered a cruiser built in the United States, the cost of which will include the indemnity demanded by the American Government. He hopes thus to solve the question of principle and avoid giving the other Powers a pretext to press their respective claims.

Other Constantinople correspondents confirm the statement published by the Mail. They say that Vice-Admiral Ahmed Pasha has been ordered to proceed to Washington, ostensibly to study the construction of battleships, but actually to negotiate with the Cramps and the Government. The Sultan's idea being to add this amount of the indemnity to the cost of the ship to be built, which sum the contractors will turn over to the Government.

WASHINGTON, April 26.—The Department of State has been informed officially of the presentation to Turkey of another demand for prompt payment of the American indemnity claims. Mr. Lloyd Garrison has charged the Sultan of the United States has called the Department of State that he presented the claims to Tewfik Pasha, the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, on Tuesday. It is admitted by the State Department that the note presented is a demand for prompt payment of the claims, but it is denied that the note is an ultimatum. A State Department official said this afternoon: "While it is not an ultimatum, we are pressing Turkey as hard as we can and will continue to do so. We have demanded prompt settlement and will insist upon our demand being acceded to."

The report published in the London Telegraph that Russia would refuse to permit the United States to coerce Turkey into paying the Armenian indemnity is not credited in official or diplomatic circles here. The State Department received assurances to-day that leads it to believe that the Russian Government has no such policy in view.

THE CITY OF OTTAWA.

What It Was Before the Fire—History, Population and Business.

Ottawa, the capital of the Dominion of Canada, is situated on the Ottawa River ninety miles above its junction with the St. Lawrence. It is one of the most important cities in the Dominion, and is the seat of the Government of Canada. The city is situated on the Ottawa River, which runs from north to south and turns to the west at the lower end of the city. Hull, where the fire started, is on the left bank of the river in the bend. Hull is connected with Ottawa by a suspension bridge and a ferry. It was the first settlement in the neighborhood of Ottawa. One Philemon Wright of Wrentham, Mass., set out on the Hull side of the Chaudiere Falls, 200 feet wide and forty feet in fall, at the bend of the river. Wright gave the Ottawa side of the settlement to a teamster named Sparks in lieu of a debt of \$800. Sparks started in Ottawa as the busiest street of the town. The settlement was at first called Bytown after an English civil engineer. 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